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RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
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AMERICAN VAMPIRE



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suggested for
mature readers
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1925. Los Angeles.





AND THE PRESS ON THIS SECOND REPLACEMENT?

HAMILTON WAS DIFFICULT, BUT THIS ONE... A YOUNG ACTRESS, PLUCKED FROM OBSCURITY AND GIVEN HER BIG CHANCE?

IT PLAYS DIRECTLY INTO THE GREAT NATIONAL FANTASY, MY FRIEND-- THE FANTASY THAT EVERYONE COUNTS EQUALLY...



THE MATCH-GIRL'S LIFE IS NO LESS VALUABLE THAN THE SENATOR'S.

IT'S A COUNTRY OF GRAND DELUSIONS.



LIKE A SPOILED INFANT... AND ON THE SUBJECT OF SPOILED CHILDREN, ANY WORD ON MS. JONES?

NOTHING AS YET, BUT I'VE SENT WORD TO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS. MS. JONES CAN RUN ALL SHE WANTS.

EVENUALLY, WE WILL... FIND... HER.





NOW, NOW,
BERNIE, CAREFUL
WHAT YOU WISH
FOR.

CURTAIN CALL

WRITER: SCOTT SNYDER
ARTIST: RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

COLORS: DAVE PICCINO LETTERS: STEVE WINDS
COVER: RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE
VARIANT BY PAUL POPE EDITOR: FRANK DOYLE
AMERICAN VAMPIRE CREATED BY SCOTT SNYDER



YOU
WILL NEVER
LEAVE HERE
ALIVE!



SEE, NOW
THAT'S A "GRAND
DELUSION."





UNLESS
YOU WANT
YOUR FRIEND
TO DIE THIS
MORNING.

DON'T
LISTEN TO HIM,
PEARL!



LET HIM GO. WE CAN
SETTLE THIS FIGHT,
YOU AND ME.



OH, BUT WE CAN'T, MY
DEAR. THIS "FIGHT" IS
MUCH BIGGER THAN YOU
CAN IMAGINE. IT'S A WAR,
YOU SEE--A WAR YOU
AND YOUR KIND WILL
NEVER WIN.



YOU MIGHT BE STRONGER
THAN WE ARE, MS. JONES,
BUT WE ARE MANY...



AND WE
HAVE BEEN HERE,
IN YOUR COUNTRY,
SINCE BEFORE IT
WAS A COUNTRY AND
WE ARE EVERYWHERE.
WE ARE THE TRUE
LINE... AND YOU ARE
NOTHING BUT AN
ABOMINATION.

NOW BERNIE,
YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY ABOUT
PEOPLE IN GLASS
HOUSES...





"I JUST HAVE ONE
LAST THING TO DO."

THERE
YOU GO,
SWEETIE.

THANKS AGAIN,
MS. HARGROVE!
YOU GIVE US
HOPE!

MIND GIVING ONE LAST
AUTOGRAPH?
YOU GIVE US
HOPE, AFTER
ALL...

OH, MS.
HARGROVE...

I'D
BE HAPPY
TO...



HSSS!



WHAT'S THE
MATTER, PEARL...
FORGET YOUR
LINE?



HERE, I'LL
HELP YOU
OUT: "HATTIE,"
BUT, BUT
HOW...?"



"I'VE WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU
SINCE THE MOMENT I WALKED
INTO THAT FLEA-BAG DINER.



"AND THEN THE OTHER
NIGHT AFTER OUR LITTLE
GET-TOGETHER ON THE
HILL...I FOUND A WAY."



IT'S
SIMPLE.



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS IS ALL
FOR THE BEST, PEARL. YOU'RE
NOT BUILT FOR THIS--ANY OF IT.
YOU'RE TOUGH, SURE, BUT WHEN
IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO
IT, YOU'RE A GOOD
PERSON.

IN THE END, YOU
JUST DON'T HAVE THE
STOMACH FOR THIS
TOWN, HONEY.



YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO
BE MY
FRIEND...



YOU
WANT YOUR
STAR SO BAD,
HATTIE?



EAT
IT!



GOLD...



PORTLAND.

TOO
GLOOMY.

DENVER.

TOO HIGH.
HOW ABOUT
SOMEWHERE
SIMPLE AND QUIET,
WITH NOT A LOT
OF STUFF
TO DO?

PEARL, YOU'RE
DESCRIBING THE LIBRARY.
WE'VE GOT MORE CASH
THAN WE CAN SPEND FROM
SELLING BLOCH'S JUNK, WE
CAN GO ANYWHERE IN THE
COUNTRY--THE WORLD!
AND YOU WANT TO GO
TO THE LIBRARY.

I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE IT'S JUST YOU AND
ME. I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH GLITZ AND GLAMOUR
TO LAST ME A LIFETIME.

SO...
SOMEWHERE
WE CAN FINALLY
HAVE THAT
DATE.

WHAT,
THIS ISN'T
IT?

AFTER ALL YOU PUT
ME THROUGH? YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN A BOX OF
POPCORN AND A RIDE ON A BIG WHEEL.

IS THAT
SO? WELL THEN
HOW ABOUT
YOU GO OVER
THERE TO THAT
BOOTH...

...AND GRAB
US A COUPLE
TOWELS, AND WE
CAN PICK OUT A
SPOT ON THE
BEACH...

...AND I'LL
TRY TO THINK
UP WAYS TO
IMPRESS
YOU.





OKAY, OKAY. I WAS GOING TO KILL YOU. BUT THEN I CHANGED MY MIND.



BECAUSE WATCHING YOU THIS WEEK HAS GOT ME THINKING ABOUT ALL THE FUN WE COULD HAVE TOGETHER. YOU... AND ME.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? ANY CHANCE I CAN WIN YOU AWAY FROM OLD HENRY THERE?



TEMPTING. BUT NO THANKS.

(SIGH)
I FIGURED AS MUCH. WELL THEN I GUESS I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.

AGAIN.



OH, DON'T WORRY, DOLLY. I'M SURE IT WON'T BE THE LAST TIME.

PLANS. PLANS SO MANY PLANS...

OKAY, I GOT THEM.



TWO TOWELS, MY LADY. WHO WAS THAT YOU WERE TALKING TO, BY THE WAY?

JUST AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE. NO ONE YOU KNOW...



NOW COME HERE AND LET'S GET STARTED...

END.

1925. Los Angeles.



AND ON THAT, WE CAN AGREE. I AM A LIAR, SIR, BUT THE TRUTH... THE TRUTH IS THAT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY THAN ANYONE KNOWS...

...BECAUSE WHILE THIS BOOK, *BAD BLOOD*, ENDED WITH SKINNER BURIED, THE HEROES TRIUMPHANT, THERE WAS ONE LAST TERRIBLE CHAPTER TO THE TALE... THE ENDING I'VE NEVER TOLD. BUT TONIGHT I'M HERE TO TELL IT.



"THREE YEARS AFTER
HIS FINAL BATTLE
WITH SKINNER SWEET,
JAMES BOOK WAS
STILL BATTLING..."

IF THY
RIGHT
HAND
OFFEND
THEE,
CUT IT
OFF

WRITER:
STEPHEN KING
ARTIST:
RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

COLORS: DAVE MCCAIG
LETTERS: STEVE WANDS
EDITOR: MARK DOYLE



WHAT DOES A GOOD MAN FALL BACK ON
WHEN THE SITUATION IS DESPERATE? HIS
FAITH, OF COURSE. THE SCIENCE OF
A NEW CENTURY. THE LOVE OF
HIS FRIENDS.



"THAT WAS IN THE
BIBLE MY FRIEND JIM
BOOK GOT FROM
HIS MOTHER.

"BUT IF YOUR
BLOOD IS THE
OFFENDING
PART? YOUR
VERY..."

BLOOD!



"SKINNER SWEET MIGHT
HAVE BEEN BURIED FOR
THREE YEARS UNDER
TONS OF ROCK, BUT..."

DR. JONAS
STILLWAGON

"...HE WAS
STILL ALIVE
AND WELL IN
JIM BOOK'S
BLOOD."

LIE STILL, SIR. ALMOST DONE.
AND IF THIS COMPULSION OF
YOURS PERSISTS...

...I THINK
I'LL REFER YOU
TO AN ALIENIST IN
DENVER. THAT'S THE
KIND OF DOCTOR
WHO...

CAN AN
ALIENIST TREAT
WHAT'S IN THAT
MIRROR?

A FAULT IN
THE GLASS, NO
DOUBT...OR THE
REFLECTIVE
BACKING...

GET THESE
RAILSPIKES OUT OF
ME, YOU GODDAM
QUACK!





THERE'S NO GOOD WAY THIS CAN END, ABI.

JIM, YOU SHUT UP THAT FOOLISH TALK.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR.

I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BLOOD, THE HUNGER. ALL THE TIME...

IF YOU WON'T SHUT UP ON YOUR OWN--



--THEN I'LL SHUT YOU UP MYSELF!



ARE YOU CRAZY?! YOU'RE YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE MY DAUGHTER! I THINK OF YOU AS MY DAUGHTER!

PART OF YOU THINKS OF ME AS SOMETHING ELSE. I LOVE YOU, JIM. NOT AS A DAUGHTER, BUT THE WAY A MAN LOVES A WOM--



GET OUT!



HAVE TO CLEAR MY HEAD... THINK... A SHEEP. JUST ONE. IT... IT'LL HELP ME THINK.





BUT WHAT
OF SKINNER SWEET
HIMSELF? DID HE EVER
MAKE IT OUT FROM
BENEATH THE MINE'S
RUBBLE? THE TRUTH...
IS THAT I DON'T
KNOW.

"FOR YEARS, THOUGH, I'VE
HAD THE LAKEVIEW DEALER,
THE DENVER HERALD, AND
THE PEAKVILLE ENVOY
DELIVERED TO MY HOME,
HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY..."

OVER HERE!
I THINK I FOUND
SOMETHING!

JESUS...

"AND FROM
BITS AND
PIECES,
OBITUARIES,
MOSTLY, I
CAN SURELY
SPECULATE..."

HERE, NOW!
WHAT THE HELL
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE
DOING? IS THAT
JIM BOOK?

CAREFUL!

STAY RIGHT
WHERE YOU
ARE.

WHY
HELLO THERE,
BOYS!





WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONT WHOSE
BLOOD IS
THAT?



IT'S JUST
SHEEP'S BLOOD.
THIS TIME... YOU
HAVE TO HELP
ME, ABI.

I CAN'T.
I'LL BE
DAMNED TO
HELL.



I'M IN HELL ALREADY. IF YOU
DON'T KILL ME, I BECOME
WHATEVER SKINNER SWEET
WAS, AND HE WINS.

PLEASE, ABI...
I'M NOT ONE TO BEG.
BUT I'M BEGGING YOU...
I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT
I WANT SOMEONE
TO MAKE SURE IT
STICKS.



WHEN?

TONIGHT.
THERE'S NO
MOON. THAT'S
WHEN I'M
WEAKEST.

H-HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

MY
BLOOD
TELLS
ME.



PLEASE,
ABI...



OKAY...

OKAY... BUT I
NEED SOMETHING
FROM YOU...



MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE SPENT MY LIFE WORKING IN A BANK INSTEAD OF ROBBERING THEM. BUT... WHAT FUN WOULD THAT BE?

WELL, WELL... OLD MAN PERCY. SEEMS YOU'RE ALWAYS EITHER BURYING MY ASS OR DIGGIN' IT UP.

I'LL BET YOU GOT YOUR REASONS FOR NOT LETTING ME ROT DOWN THERE THIS TIME, THOUGH. DON'T YOU, BOSS?



I WANT TO OFFER YOU A DEAL, MR. SWEET.

OOH, GO ON.

ADMITTEDLY, MY FRIENDS AND I, WE HAVEN'T BEEN THE FAIREST TO YOU. WHEN YOU FIRST EMERGED AS ONE OF US, BUT... DIFFERENT, WE WERE WAR. BY DEFINITION, THOUGH, WE ARE FAMILY.

AND IN DIFFICULT TIMES--TIMES LIKE THESE--DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES, WE STAND TOGETHER AS FAMILY.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, A VAMPIRE WITH YOUR ABILITIES... TOGETHER WE COULD ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH.



JOIN US, MR. SWEET. WE'RE PREPARED TO GIVE YOU TERRITORY ALL YOUR OWN. RICHES BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

AND BEYOND THIS, WE'RE OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO BELONG... EVERY OUTLAW NEEDS A GANG, AFTER ALL.



SO, WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

NO!

NO! PLEASE!
I'LL GIVE YOU
ANYTHING YOU
WANT!



IT'S
WORTH A
MILLION JUST
TO SEE YOU
ROT!

PLANS,
PLANS. SO
MANY
PLANS...





DOES IT MATTER HOW LONG THEY WERE TOGETHER THAT NIGHT? TO LOVERS, AN HOUR CAN LAST A CENTURY. BUT EVEN FOR LOVERS, EVERY HOUR ENDS.

"ABI... I KEPT MY END OF THE BARGAIN. NOW YOU KEEP YOURS."



I...
CAN'T...WITH
THAT.



AT THE DARK OF THE
MOON, I THINK IT CAN
BE ANYTHING LETHAL. I
WAS YOUR GODFATHER.
I WAS YOUR LOVER.
NOW BE MY
FRIEND.



FOR
THE FIRST
TIME IN THREE
YEARS, I FEEL
LIKE I CAN
SLEEP.

BLAM

"A YEAR LATER, ABILENA FINALLY LEFT THE HOME SHE'D SHARED WITH JAMES BOOK AND HEADED WEST."



EARLIER, THOUGH, ONE OF YOU ASKED ME WHY NOW. WHY COME HERE TONIGHT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF LYING, AND FINALLY TELL THE TRUTH?

I SAID BEFORE THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT TIME. AND I'VE BEEN AROUND ENOUGH DEATH TO KNOW WHEN MY OWN TIME IS DRAWING NEAR... AS WELL AS ANY CITY DOCTOR AT LEAST.



SO I'M HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE I WANT IT TO BE KNOWN, BY ALL OF YOU... THAT THERE ARE MONSTERS OUT THERE. REAL MONSTERS THAT WALK THE ROADS AND RAILS OF THIS COUNTRY.

BUT THERE ARE ALSO HEROES... MEN WHO EMBODY THE BEST WE HAVE TO OFFER. MEN LIKE MY FRIEND, JAMES BOOK... WHO WAS MORE OF A HERO THAN ANY CHARACTER I COULD EVER DREAM UP.

BECAUSE SKINNER SWEET DIDN'T WIN, YOU UNDERSTAND? JAMES BOOK NEVER BUCKLED, NEVER GAVE IN, HE WENT TO HIS GRAVE EVERY BIT THE HERO I KNEW...

...AND IF YOU ALL NEED A HAPPY ENDING, THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.



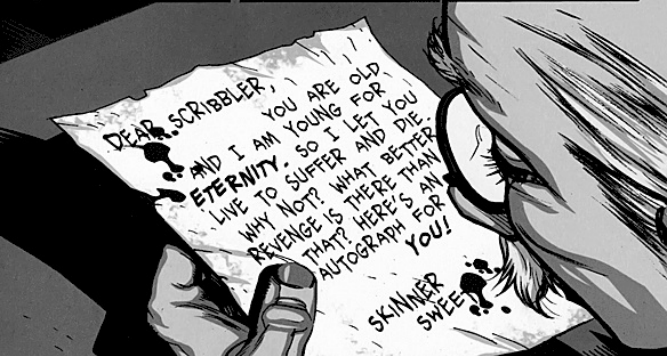
NOW...I'LL BE HAPPY TO SIGN BOOKS FOR THOSE WHO WANT THEM.

WAIT! WHAT HAPPENED TO ABILENA?

AND THE BABY! WHAT ABOUT THE BABY?

THOSE ARE NOT MY STORIES TO TELL.







END.

Next: Devil
in the Sand!



What if you woke up in one world and it was crazy and then the next day you woke

up and everything was back to normal? With every story I've written over the last ten years I asked myself this question: What if this happened...but...for real.

That's **REVOLVER**. It starts out in my hometown of St. Louis (which is real) and goes nuts from there. Our hero, Sam, is bored at his day job and then the world falls apart around him. Terrorist attacks. Avian Flu. Dirty bombs. No health insurance. You name it, it happened. Now our hero is struggling to get out of the city alive with a boss he hates, a missing girlfriend he may or may not love, and a choice to make.

If you could live at the end of the world where money, jobs, and daily commutes had lost all meaning and you could actually live your daydreams...would you? Or would you pick the safe world, where you probably wouldn't be beaten to death in a parking garage, or be cold at night, or have to kill someone over gasoline. Your biggest danger would be of dying of cancer, or heart attack, or boredom.

Well, I tend to think we make that choice every day—not as clear-cut a choice but a choice nonetheless. And that's what REVOLVER's all about. Granted, it has packs of wild dogs, potentially crazy motivational speakers, assassination plots, shooting of innocents, laser-guided bombs, and brutal muggings, but, well...it's not like I'm making that stuff up. All of that does happen.

What really interests me is how choices write a person's story. What is that guy who's making my coffee thinking? What choices did he make to get himself there? What is he going to do next? Why was the boss at my first job so horrible? Did I hate that person or did I just hate what their choices had turned them into? Wasn't it the choices I did and didn't make that turned me into who I am?

Ten years ago I had the easiest job ever. The work was fun and the people were (mostly) great. Then my world got turned on end – I was laid off. This was a job I never would have quit. Good pay. Health care. Nothing a responsible adult would ever walk away from. I got pushed out and I could have tried to return to that world. The safe and responsible world. But I didn't. And it was the best choice I ever made. I've done 1,000 pages of graphic novels since that other life ended and I've never been happier.

—Matt

REVOLVER

REVOLVER is an original graphic novel by acclaimed writer/artist Matt Kindt (*Super Spy*, 3 Story: The Secret History of The Giant Man) that's a tale of two worlds — and how both test a man to his limits.



HOT LIST

Northlanders #30

NORTHLANDERS: METAL begins here! Kicking off a new storyline with art by DIMZ regular Riccardo Burchielli! Erik, a blacksmith living in Viking-era Norway, meets Ingrid, a poor girl fallen in with corrupt Christian missionaries. When the unlikely lovers find themselves duly banished from their respective societies, they launch a crusade of violent retribution!and into the realms of myth and terror.



Hellblazer #269

GUEST-STARRING SHADE THE CHANGING MAN!



Check out
GRAPHIC
CONTENT

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AIR #23 - AMERICAN VAMPIRE #5 - DAYTRIPPER #8
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HOUSE OF MYSTERY #27 - ZOMBIE #3 - JOE THE BARBARIAN #7
MADAME XANADU #25 - NORTHLANDERS #30 - SCALPED #40
SWEET TOOTH #11 - UNKNOWN SOLDIER #22 - UNWRITTEN #15

GRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

**HOUSE OF MYSTERY:
THE BEAUTY OF DECAY TPB**

Now relocated to the Space Between, Fig, Peter and Jordan venture into the city of ghosts to visit the abandoned Pathfinder's Academy. Collecting **HOUSE OF MYSTERY #16-20** and the **HOUSE OF MYSTERY HALLOWEEN SPECIAL 2009**.



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SPECIAL
SNEAK PREVIEW

DARK RAIN

A NEW ORLEANS STORY

"Mat Johnson's unflinching, macabre sense of humor is perfectly in tune with New Orleans, and Simon Gane's eye for character and detail brings the region — in all its glory and degradation — to vivid life."

—JOSH NIFFIELD, writer/artist of the New York Times bestseller *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*

"Heart-stopping and heartbreaking."

—MARK WINIGARDNER, New York Times best-selling author of *The Godfather Returns*

"DARK RAIN HAS THE TWISTS OF THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE, the political punch of *When the Levees Broke* and the character interplay of *The Defiant Ones*"

—REGINALD HUDLIN, writer of *Black Panther*, director of *Boomerang*

From the writer of *INCOGNITO* A graphic novel thriller set in the days after Hurricane Katrina

Written by **MAT JOHNSON** Illustrated by **SIMON GANE**

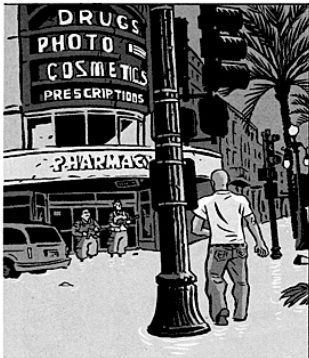
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Comics and Books
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AAAAAAHHH!!!
AHHHHH!!!!



HAAA!!!
HAAA!!!

WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
LAUGHING
AT?



I'M LAUGHING AT YOU, HECTOR
MORALES. CLEARLY YOU'RE USED
TO WORKING IN COUNTRIES WHERE
YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU
WANT.

I'M LAUGHING
BECAUSE I CAN SUB
YOU FOR TEN TIMES WHAT
YOU MAKE FOR THIS
ASSIGNMENT FOR WHAT
YOU JUST DID.

HECTOR
MORALES, WHERE
DO I SEND YOUR
SUBPOENA TO?



CRACK

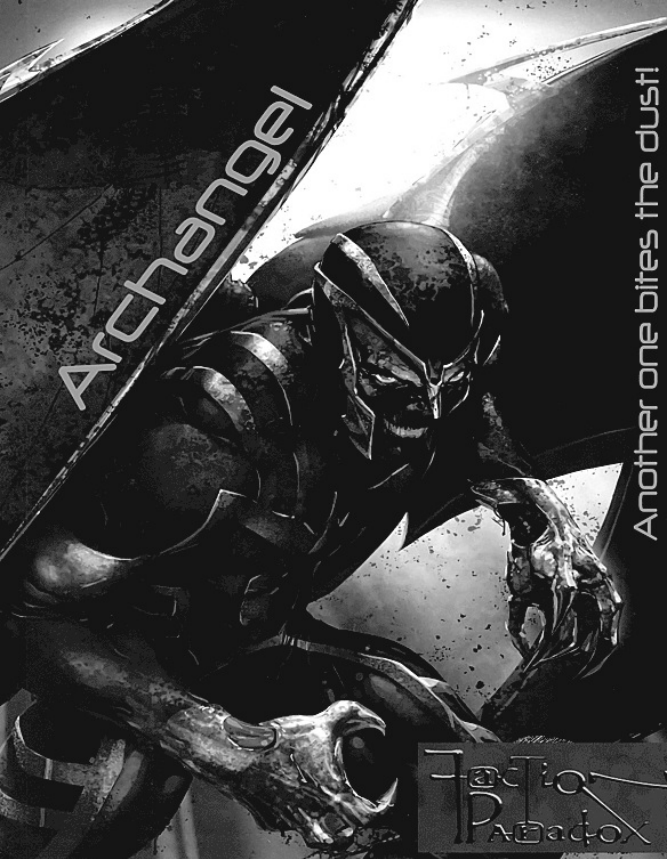


SEE,
THAT'S WHERE
YOU'RE
WRONG.

THIS MIGHT
HAVE BEEN AMERICA
LAST WEEK.

BUT RIGHT
NOW, THIS PLACE
IS DARK RAIN
TERRITORY.

To be continued in:
DARK RAIN: A NEW ORLEANS STORY
An Original Graphic Novel
On Sale August 2010



Archangel

Another one bites the dust!

Faction
Paradox